

Claims:

1. An audio amplification device comprising an electronic module, said electronic module comprising:

- 5 (a) a microphone for receiving sound and converting said sound to an input acoustic signal;
- (b) an analog-to-digital converter coupled to said microphone for converting said input acoustic signal to an input digital signal;
- (c) a processing core for processing said input digital signal to produce an output digital signal;
- 10 (d) a digital-to-analog converter coupled to said processing core for converting said output digital signal to an output acoustic signal;
- (e) a receiver coupled to said digital-to-analog converter for delivering said output acoustic signal to a user;
- 15 (f) a battery compartment adapted to receive a battery for powering said digital hearing aid; and
- (g) a volume control operable by said user within a range of volume positions;

wherein said electronic module is adapted to emit a reference signal when said volume control reaches a pre-determined volume reserve position in said
20 range, after said volume control is moved from a second volume position in said range to said pre-determined volume reserve position.

2. The audio amplification device of claim 1, wherein the device is a hearing aid.

3. The audio amplification device of claim 1, wherein said volume control
25 is coupled to said processing core, and wherein said processing core is

adapted to detect when said volume control reaches said volume reserve position and to generate said reference signal when said volume reserve position is reached.

4. The audio amplification device of claim 3, said reference signal being
5 audible to said user through said receiver when emitted.

5. The audio amplification device of claim 4, wherein said processing core is adapted to produce an output digital signal in which said reference signal has been superimposed thereon.

6. The audio amplification device of claim 4, wherein said processing core
10 is adapted to amplify said reference signal generated thereby.

7. The audio amplification device of claim 3, further comprising a memory in which a plurality of reference signal characteristics are stored.

8. The audio amplification device of claim 7, wherein said reference signal characteristics include a gain value associated with said volume reserve
15 position, and wherein said gain value is used by said processing core to detect when said volume control reaches said volume reserve position.

9. The audio amplification device of claim 8, wherein said processing core is adapted to store said gain value as specified during fitting of said hearing aid.

20 10. The audio amplification device of claim 7, wherein said reference signal characteristics further includes a reference signal type.

11. The audio amplification device of claim 10, said reference signal being audible to said user through said receiver when emitted, and wherein said reference signal characteristics further includes at least one of: a type of
25 audible signal, a frequency associated with said reference signal, and a loudness level associated with said reference signal.

12. A hearing aid comprising an electronic module, said electronic module comprising:

- (a) at least one microphone;
- 5 (b) an amplifier coupled to said at least one microphone to amplify sound received thereby;
- (c) a receiver coupled to said amplifier to deliver sound therefrom to a user;
- (d) a battery compartment adapted to receive a battery for powering said hearing aid; and
- 10 (e) a volume control operable by said user within a range of volume positions;

wherein said electronic module is adapted to emit a reference signal when said volume control reaches a pre-determined volume reserve position in said range, after said volume control is moved from a second volume position in
15 said range to said pre-determined volume reserve position.

13. The hearing aid of claim 11, said signal being audible to said user through said receiver.